

TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
September 26, 2017

CALL TO ORDER: 6:30 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: All members were present.

PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND REMONSTRATIONS:

President Hardaway expressed his condolences to Mr. Minchuk for the passing of his grandmother.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Approval of the Accounts Payable Register Voucher dated September 26, 2017. Approval of Town Council Meeting Minutes of September 12, 2017. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve and was seconded by Ms. LaMarca. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

BUDGET & FINANCE:

Mr. Pettit commented on Ordinance 17-20 regarding the 2018 Budget approval. Mr. Pettit thanked Chief Petruch and his department for returning excess funds back to the General Fund.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Mr. Minchuk read a letter from Indiana Department of Transportation in reference to the Community Crossing Grant Fund Award.

Mr. Minchuk referenced the approval of Interlocal Agreement with INDOT for the funding of the 101st Avenue Bridge over I-65 Project. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mrs. Uzelac. Mr. Pettit thanked Mr. Spires for the time and effort put forth with this project. There was no further discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

COUNCIL AFFAIRS:

Mrs. Uzelac had no report.

PERSONNEL POLICY & EMPLOYEE BENEFITS:

Mrs. Barron commented on the upcoming Insurance renewal information.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Mrs. Uzelac referenced the Collective Bargaining agreement between the Town of Merrillville and the FOP. Mr. Minchuk made a motion to approve the agreement and was seconded by Ms. LaMarca. There was no further discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Attorney John Bushemi provided detailed information regarding the Ambulance Services Agreement with Superior Ambulance. Attorney John Bushemi read the Motion for Superior Ambulance Contract Payments to Town of Merrillville. Mrs. Uzelac made a motion to approve the agreement and was seconded by Mr. Minchuk. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

PARKS & RECREATION:

Ms. LaMarca referred to Jan Orlich for report. Ms. Orlich said a survey is being prepared for the residents surrounding Stefek Park. The survey will inquire as to the desired amenities residents would like to see in replacement of the concrete wall, old basketball court and fencing. She anticipates results of the survey to be available in December. Ms. Orlich provided information for the upcoming day trips available through the Parks Department. Ms. Orlich encouraged everyone to continue to donate bottled water for the hurricane victims. September 30th will be the last day for collection.

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS:

Mrs. Barron had no report.

ELECTIONS & PUBLIC RELATIONS:

Ms. LaMarca had no report.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

Mr. Pettit had no report.

UTILITY LIAISON:

Mr. Spann had no report.

ABANDONED PROPERTIES:

President Hardaway said that Habitat for Humanity is interested in the vacant lot at 122 W 55th Ave. President Hardaway encouraged the Council Members to consider having a resolution created to donate the property to Habitat for Humanity. Mr. Spann made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mrs. Uzelac. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

GENERAL ORDERS:

FIRST READING ORDINANCES:

Ord. 17-20: Be it ordained / resolved by the Town of Merrillville that for the expenses of MERRILLVILLE CIVIL TOWN for the year ending December 31, 2018 the sums herein specified are hereby appropriated and ordered set apart out of the several funds herein named and for the purposes herein specified, subject to the laws governing the same. Such sums herein appropriated shall be held to include all expenditures authorized to be made during the year, unless otherwise expressly stipulated and provided for by law. In addition, for the purposes of raising revenue to meet the necessary expenses of MERRILLVILLE CIVIL TOWN, the properly tax levies and property tax rates as herein specified are included herein. Budget From 4-B for all funds must be completed and submitted in the manner prescribed by the Department of Local Government Finance.

This ordinance/resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval by the Town of Merrillville. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mrs. Barron. There was no public comment or discussion. The motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

SECOND READING ORDINANCES:

Ord. 17-14: An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana appropriating additional monies within the Wheel Tax Revenue Fund for the year 2017 not included in the current budget. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mrs. Barron. There was no public comment or discussion. The motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

Ord. 17-15: An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana appropriating additional monies within the LOIT 2016 Special Distribution Fund for the year 2017 not included in the current budget. Mrs. Uzelac made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no public comment or discussion. The motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

Ord. 17-16: An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana appropriating additional monies within the LOIT Public Safety Fund for the year 2017 not included in the current budget. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no public comment or discussion. The motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

Ord. 17-17: An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana appropriating additional monies within the LOIT CEDIT Fund for the year 2017 not included in the current budget. Mrs. Uzelac made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no public comment or discussion. The motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

Ord. 17-18: An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana appropriating additional monies within the various Stormwater Funds for the year 2017 not included in the current budget. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no public comment or discussion. The motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

RESOLUTIONS:

Res. 17-24: A Resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, transferring monies of the 2017 budget within the Police Department Police Equipment fund. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve the resolution and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Res. 17-25: A Resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, transferring monies of the 2017 budget within the General fund. Mrs. Uzelac made a motion to approve the resolution and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Res. 17-26: A Resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, transferring monies of the 2017 budget within the General fund. Mrs. Uzelac made a motion to approve the resolution and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

BZA ACTIONS:

None

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

None

PUBLIC COMMENT:

All public comment is recorded on an audio file and kept on file in the Clerk-Treasurer’s Office at Town Hall.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Board of Zoning Appeals meeting, September 27, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.
- Abandoned Blighted Properties Committee meeting, September 28, 2017 at 10:30 a.m.
- Stormwater Management Board meeting, Oct. 3, 2017 at 4:30 p.m.
- Plan Commission workshop meeting, Oct. 3, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.
- Town Hall Offices Closed (except for Emergency Services)
October 9, 2017 in observance of Columbus Day.
- Town Council meeting, October 10, 2017, at 6:30 p.m.

President Hardaway encouraged everyone to continue donating bottled water for the hurricane victims. Donation drop off collection sites are located at Stormwater Utility-7404 Broadway and Merrillville Parks & Recreation-5750 Tyler Street. President Hardaway is interested in having a conversation with Indiana American Water in an effort to have the program extended due to several different locations impacted by the hurricanes.

ADJOURNMENT: Mrs. Barron made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Mrs. Uzelac.

Richard Hardaway, President

Eugene Guernsey, Clerk-Treasurer